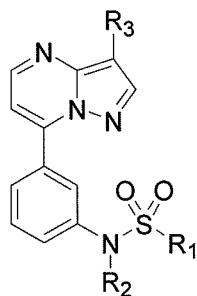


AMENDED CLAIM SET:

1. (previously presented) A compound of formula (I):



(I)

as well as pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof; wherein

R₁ is selected from the group consisting of alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), ω,ω,ω-trifluoroalkyl(C₁-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆)alkyl(C₁-C₆), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl(C₁-C₆), phenylalkenyl(C₂-C₆), furyl, substituted furyl, isoxazolyl, substituted isoxazolyl, pyrazolyl, substituted pyrazolyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆) and cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆);

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of -CN and -COR₆ wherein R₆ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C₁-C₆), alkenyl(C₂-C₆), alkynyl(C₂-C₆), cycloalkyl(C₃-C₆), phenyl, monosubstituted phenyl, disubstituted phenyl, phenylalkyl(C₁-C₆), phenylalkenyl(C₂-C₆), furyl, substituted furyl, thienyl, substituted thienyl, thiazolyl, substituted thiazolyl, oxadiazolyl, substituted oxadiazolyl, pyridyl and substituted pyridyl;

with the proviso that simultaneously: R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ methyl and R₃ benzoyl; and R₁ may not be p-tolyl and R₂ ethyl and R₃ furyl-2-carbonyl.

2. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a cyano group.

3. (original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, phenyl and 4-methoxyphenyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

4. (cancelled).

5. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a thiophene-2-carbonyl group.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5, wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 2-phenylethenyl, 2,2,2-trifluoroethyl, phenyl, 2-chlorophenyl, 3-chlorophenyl, 4-chlorophenyl, 2,4-dichlorophenyl, 3,4-dichlorophenyl, 2-cyanophenyl, 3-cyanophenyl, 4-cyanophenyl, 4-methoxyphenyl, 3-nitrophenyl, 4-nitrophenyl, 2-thienyl, 5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl, 5-methyl-2-trifluoromethyl-3-furyl, 4-(4-morpholinyl)-3-pyridyl, 2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl, cyclopropyl, benzyl, vinyl, 3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl, 1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl and cyclopentylmethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, cyclopropyl and 2-propynyl.

7. (cancelled).

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a benzoyl group.

9. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

10. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a 4-fluorobenzoyl group.

11. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

12. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a 4-methylbenzoyl group.

13. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

14. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a 4-methoxybenzoyl group.

15. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

16. (cancelled).

17. (cancelled).

18. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a pyridyl-2-carbonyl group.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

20. (original) A compound according to claim 1, wherein R₁ and R₂ are independently as defined in formula (I) and R₃ is a pyridyl-4-carbonyl group.

21. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 wherein R₁ is selected from the group consisting of methyl and ethyl; and R₂ is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl and 2-propynyl.

22. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 2 or claim 3, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-benzenesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-benzenesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-methanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-propane-2-sulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-ethanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-methyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-ethyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-butyl-2-propanesulfonamide;
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-propyl-2-propanesulfonamide; and
N-[3-(3-cyano-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl)-phenyl]-N-prop-2-ynyl-ethanesulfonamide.

23. (cancelled).

24. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzenesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-propyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-butyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-phenylethenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,2,2-trifluoroethanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-chlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,4-dichlorobenzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-cyano-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-4-nitro-benzenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-thiophenesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-5-methyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2-trifluoromethyl-5-methyl-3-furyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-6-(morpholin-4-yl)-3-pyridyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-2,4-dimethyl-5-thiazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopropylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-benzylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-vinylsulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-3,5-dimethyl-4-isoxazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-1,3,5-trimethyl-4-pyrazolyl-sulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-propanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-butanesulfonamide; and

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(thiophene-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-cyclopentylmethanesulfonamide.

25. (cancelled).

26. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 8 or claim 9 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(benzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

27. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 10 or claim 11 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo [1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(fluorobenzene-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

28. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 12 or claim 13 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methylbenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

29. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 14 or claim 15 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(4-methoxybenzoyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

30. (cancelled).

31. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 18 or claim 19 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-2-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide.

32. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 20 or claim 21 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide;

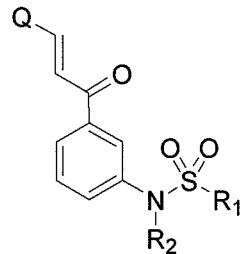
N-methyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-ethyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide;

N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-ethanesulfonamide; and

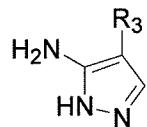
N-prop-2-ynyl-N-{3-[3-(pyridin-4-carbonyl)-pyrazolo[1,5-a] pyrimidin-7-yl]-phenyl}-methanesulfonamide.

33. (original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, according to claim 1, comprising reacting intermediate (II):



(II)

wherein R₁ and R₂ are as defined in (I) and Q is an appropriate leaving group selected from the group consisting of N(dialkyl(C₁-C₆)), alkylthio(C₁-C₆) and alkoxy(C₁-C₆), with intermediate (III):



(III)

wherein R₃ is as defined in (I) and alternatively, treatment of the compounds of claim 1, in the form of free base, with an acid to form a salt thereof.

34. (original) A process according to claim 33, comprising utilizing the intermediate of formula (II) where Q is selected from the group consisting of dimethylamino, methylthio and methoxy.

35. – 37. (cancelled).

38. (previously presented) A method for treating anxiety in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

39. (previously presented) A method for treating epilepsy in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

40. (cancelled).

41. (previously presented) A method for treating insomnia in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

42. – 44. (cancelled).

45. (previously presented) A method for inducing muscle relaxation in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

46. (previously presented) A composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a therapeutically inert carrier.

47. – 51. (cancelled).